

Claims

1. A water craft having a keel mounted to the underside of the craft, the keel comprising an elongate member having at least one mounting formation for cooperative engagement with at least one corresponding mounting formation on the underside of the water craft, for removably mounting the elongate member on the water craft, characterised in that the keel is vertically compressible.
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2. A water craft as claimed in claim 1, in which the elongate member is an extrusion.
3. A water craft as claimed in claim 1 or claim 2, in which the elongate member is flexible.
4. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim, in which the elongate member is adapted
10 for sliding engagement with the at least one corresponding mounting formation on the underside of the water craft.
5. A water craft as claimed as claimed in any previous claim, in which the or each formation on the elongate member has a profile adapted for complementary engagement with the at least one corresponding mounting formation on the underside of the water craft.
- 15 6. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim, in which the at least one corresponding mounting formation is provided in a mounting member mounted to the underside of the water craft.
7. A water craft as claimed in claim 6, in which the mounting member is an extrusion.
8. A water craft as claimed in claim 6 or claim 7, in which the mounting member is made from
20 extruded aluminium.

9. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim, in which the water craft has a hull and the keel is removably mounted to the hull.
10. A water craft as claimed in claim 9 when dependant on claim 6, in which the hull is a moulding having a channel formation and the mounting member is located in the channel.
- 5 11. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim, in which the water craft is an amphibious vehicle.
12. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim in which the elongate member is made from extruded rubber or synthetic rubber.
13. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim in which the keel further comprises a tip member located adjacent a forward end of the elongate member.
- 10 14. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim, in which the at least one corresponding mounting formation is a re-entrant channel into which a formation on the elongate member is slidably received.
- 15 15. A water craft as claimed in any previous claim, in which the elongate member has an elongate, longitudinal cavity.
16. A water craft as claimed in claim 15, in which the elongate member is adapted to be inflated, using either water or gas, to vary its profile.
17. A water craft as claimed in claim 15, in which the cavity is filled with a foam material.
18. An amphibious vehicle having a hull and a keel mounted to the hull, characterised in that the keel comprises an elongate extruded member having at least one mounting formation for cooperation with at least one corresponding formation on an extruded mounting

member attached to the hull, for removably securing the elongate member to the hull.

19. An amphibious vehicle as claimed in claim 18, in which the at least one corresponding formation is a re-entrant channel into which a formation on the elongate member is slidably received.
- 5 20. An amphibious vehicle as claimed in claim 19, in which the channel is open at one end and the keel further comprises a tip member attached to the hull adjacent the open end to prevent the elongate member from being withdrawn from the channel in use.
21. An amphibious vehicle as claimed in claim 20, in which a metal cap member is provided over the tip member.
- 10 22. A water craft substantially as hereinbefore described, with reference to and as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 in combination with Figure 3, or Figure 4, or Figure 5 of the accompanying drawings.